

Utah Upland Game Committee

Meeting minutes, Jan. 9, 2007

Opening:

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

- Mike Bowers
- Jim Gaskill (Chair)
- Dean Mitchell (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
- Travis Proctor
- Hal Smith
- John Staley

Old business:

Forest Grouse management plan;

Dean Mitchell reported that the pheasant management plan was progressing. The next plan to be prepared will be for forest grouse, starting with blue grouse and then ruffed grouse. Work on the plan should begin next summer.

Youth Hunt Application Changes;

The committee has some concerns about the way youth pheasant and chukar permittees are selected. It was suggested that some youth may be getting left out while others have received several opportunities. The committee recommended that a procedure be put in place to assure that first time applicants are given priority.

New business:

Box Elder Sage Grouse Study;

Jan Kerr presented a nice summary of her research on sage grouse in Box Elder County. Her focus has been on distribution and movements of birds throughout seasonal habitats. She has successfully banded and monitored numerous sage grouse. She will be finishing her degree soon, but her study will be continued by other graduate students.

2007 Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Survey;

Jim Gaskill stated that again this year volunteers will be needed to survey the sharp-tailed grouse strutting grounds in central Box Elder County. Members of the committee and others have conducted this survey for several years.

2008 Regulation Changes;

Several changes for the 2008 upland regulations were discussed. In prior meetings it has been suggested that the season dates for chukar partridge should be adjusted. Recent studies have indicated that these birds are closely tied to water sources and hence very vulnerable during early and mid September. Unethical and even illegal activities have occurred as a result of this situation. The committee recommended that the season opening be delayed until the first week of October, and be extended until the second week of February. Current studies indicate that no significant mating activities occur prior to March. Reasons for the separate closing dates in various part of the state were also a topic. The committee believes that a uniform statewide opening and closing date makes more sense.

Agenda Items Proposed For Next Meeting:

Organization representative reports

Walk-in-Access goals for 2007

Update on Sharp-tailed grouse study by Ron Greer

Wild chukar transplants

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the DWR State offices at 1594 W. North Temple, Salt

Lake City.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

- Dean Mitchell, DeanMitchell@utah.gov
- Jim Gaskill, jhgaskill@weber.edu

Respectfully submitted

Jim Gaskill

Upland game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.